



press clippings

publication - daily mirror

date - may 13th 2008

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M DAILY MIRROR

Tuesday
May 13, 2008

A BETTER READ GUARANTEED 40p

THE LITTLE MERMAID

Learn-to-swim Lizzy, 2, survives pool fall

BY **STEPHEN WHITE**
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A TODDLER survived after falling in a pool – because she learned to swim at just eight weeks old.

Two-year-old Lizzy Jelley swam to the side of the 4ft deep pool and held on for several minutes until her mum Amanda rescued her.

Amanda, 38, said she was taught what to do at swimming lessons.

She added: "If it wasn't for the lessons I dread to think what could have happened."

Amanda was searching for Lizzy when she heard the child calling her. She

said: "She was calling, 'Mummy, Mummy', but she wasn't panicking.

"I thought she wanted to play hide and seek so I started checking under the beds and in the wardrobes."

When she found her "I thought she had slipped under the water – I was hysterical. She was a bit upset because

the water had not been heated so she was very cold."

Amanda, of Wirral, Merseyside, added: "She can swim several feet on her own and I think that saved her life.

"We decided on the classes just in case an accident like this ever happened. You do it as a precaution but you don't think it will happen.

"Lizzy isn't bothered about water at all – in fact since the incident all she wants to do is jump in the pool."

Lizzy is a regular at Water Babies lessons in Birkenhead. Founder Jess Thompson said: "Most children drown because they panic.

"We teach children to become familiar with water. It's amazing what a child can do from an early age."



SAFE Lizzy still wants to jump in says Amanda



FIRST LESSON
Lizzy takes to the water as a baby